

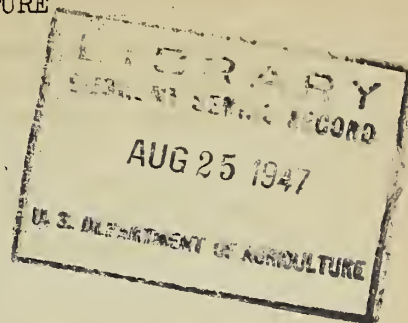
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X FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CAMPAIGN
IN MEXICO MAKES STEADY PROGRESS



The campaign to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico is making

steady progress, according to Dr. B. T. Simms, Chief of the Bureau of

Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and a member of the Mexican -
United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease in
Mexico. In recent weeks the slaughter of animals that might spread the
disease has been going forward at the rate of several thousand a day. The
only known way to keep this highly infectious livestock disease from crossing
the border from Mexico into the United States is to kill every infected animal,
as well as all those that have been exposed to the infection. Owners of these
slaughtered animals receive indemnities, based on fair market or utility val-
uations, provided they have complied with quarantine and other requirements.

Veterinarians, technicians, and other trained personnel from the United
States are aiding the Mexican authorities in mapping the strategy for this
international campaign and in conducting the field work essential for its
success.

The main steps in the eradication program are inspection to determine
the presence of the disease; appraisal of the animals to be slaughtered in
areas where the disease is found; killing and burying the animals in deep pits,
after first treating their carcasses with lime to hasten decomposition and
prevent illegal salvage; and cleaning and disinfecting the premises from which
the animals were taken. These premises are kept under quarantine until tests
with a few pigs or calves show that they are entirely free from the infection.
Then they may be restocked with cattle. All cloven-hoofed animals, including
swine, sheep, goats, deer, and antelopes, as well as cattle, are susceptible
to the disease.

(EDITORS AND WRITERS: You may obtain 8x10 glossy prints of any of the pictures here shown free on request to the Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.)

(1) A cow in a herd deep in the mountains of Mexico, not far from Queretaro, shows one of the symptoms of foot-and-mouth disease--drooling at the mouth. Winding, barely negotiable roads led to this center of infection.

(2) To eradicate the disease in Mexico, thereby removing the danger of its crossing the border into the United States, all infected or exposed animals are killed. The owner receives fair indemnity for the slaughtered animals. The amount is determined by appraisers of the Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Here (left-right) Fred Thacker, U. S. appraiser, Rafael Lopez Ortiz, cattle owner, and Hector Lopez Arista, Mexican appraiser, discuss the indemnity for infected cattle on a farm near Salvatierra.

(3) Deep pits are necessary for the safe disposal of slaughtered animals. The first pits, like this one near Toluca, were dug with picks and shovels by hand. Later power shovels, bulldozers, and other machines were brought in to speed up the work.

(4) The animals condemned to death as probable carriers of foot-and-mouth disease are driven into the pits and shot. After the infected cattle have dropped dead in their tracks, their hides are slashed. The carcasses are then sprinkled well with lime, as shown here, to hasten decomposition and prevent illegal salvage which might spread the disease. The pit is then filled in.

(5) Premises from which cattle have been taken for slaughter are disinfected. After the tank has been loaded with the soda ash disinfecting solution, the equipment, with pressure sprayer attached, is moved into the closest possible work position. Here a disinfecting crew sprays a corral wall on a ranch in the State of Queretaro, one of the main centers of eradication operations. The 300-foot rubber hose used by this crew makes it possible to reach the most inaccessible places.

(6) The Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease pays cash indemnities for animals destroyed to stamp out this highly infectious disease. Here campesinos, near Morelia, receive their cash shortly after loss of their animals. Careful records of these payments, with signed receipts from each owner, are kept.

(7) The Mexican-United States Commission for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease pays cash indemnities for animals destroyed to stamp out this highly infectious disease. Here campesinos, near Morelia, receive their cash shortly after loss of their animals. Careful records of these payments, with signed receipts from each owner, are kept. Any campesino who is unable to write signs the receipt with his thumb print, properly witnessed.

(8) Every vehicle leaving an infected area must be properly disinfected as a precaution against the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Mexico. Road disinfecting stations, like this one in the State of Michoacan, are operated by Mexican Army troops detailed to the work by the Mexican Government. The disinfectant chiefly used is a mixture of water and a small percentage of soda ash or caustic soda, which kills the virus quickly. Passengers of the vehicles are required to walk along a sawdust path saturated with the solution.